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interesting testimony not only concerning the industrial conditions during or immediately preceding the days of gloom, but also concerning the influence of the Revolution in erasing distinctions. The most significant letter in this period is the well-known one to Richard Henry Lee, in which Adams says after reading the Constitution, "I confess as I enter the Building I stumble at the Threshold." Several letters, written in the last decade of the century, interestingly disclose at once his old devotion to the Union and his essential Republican principles, which enable him to write to Jefferson in April in 1801 that he congratulated the country "on the arrival of the day of Glory which has called *you* to the first office in the administration of our Federal Government".

One the whole the collection will be useful. I am not sure that all the really good matter could not have been put in two-thirds of the space, but historical students are not apt to find fault with completeness.

John C. Calhoun. By GAILLARD HUNT. [American Crisis Biographies.] (Philadelphia: George W. Jacobs and Company. 1908. Pp. 335.)

JUDGED by the requirements of the series in which it appears Mr. Hunt's *Calhoun* must be pronounced highly successful. It shows a mellow scholarship on constitutional questions, a general knowledge of social and political conditions in the South, and a clear style controlled by a mild and even temper. Not especially profound nor original, except in minor matters, it avoids ponderous and commonplace historical judgments, and has a peculiarly instructive and interesting freshness.

Although it can hardly be called a complete biography, it is the first serious effort to describe the plain man Calhoun as well as his doctrines. In previous biographies and often in essays Calhoun has usually taken on some of the attributes of a god or of a monster, according to the writer's prejudice, mental condition or lack of information. The publication of Calhoun's correspondence nearly ten years ago made it possible to change all that. In fact and in Mr. Hunt's narrative Calhoun the nationalist and Calhoun the sectionalist are very natural products of very different political conditions. The Calhoun prior to 1820 and the Calhoun subsequent to 1830 were of course wholly inconsistent. But such inconsistencies are the rule wherever the circumstances so change as to make a corresponding change of attitude on the part of a public man a prerequisite of his continued supremacy. It is these facts that are important; and Mr. Hunt has made them very clear without elaborate argument or much concern about the reader's judgment.

Since Houston's *Critical Study of Nullification*—one of the most effective monographs in American history—there have been no mysteries about the South Carolina of that time. But Mr. Hunt has retold the story in a refreshing manner and has made contributions and correc-

tions of importance. It had been so often stated by historians that Calhoun's *Exposition of 1828* was approved by the legislature that such careful scholars as Houston and Herman V. Ames accepted it as true. Mr. Hunt corrects the error (p. 108). Moreover, the manner in which he develops his chapters and proceeds with his narrative shows that he has unusual literary taste and skill, which are so often lacking in American scholars. His concise and sprightly chapter on South Carolina in 1830, not to mention others almost as good, demonstrates the value of these qualities. South Carolina's effervescence, Calhoun's leadership and dogmas are so lucidly and briefly described that dry-as-dusts will be likely to mistake an easy mastery for a graceful superficiality.

Mr. Hunt's best qualities are displayed prior to the end of the Nullification movement. That movement brought out the main features of the Calhoun of South Carolina history; but that Calhoun is to the Calhoun of United States history hardly more than the General Grant up to 1863 is to the Grant of the whole war. Without studying Calhoun in national affairs during the last fifteen years of his life we lose one of the most important examples in history as to how economic interests and subtle dogmas may lead even a high-minded people to destruction. Mr. Hunt has not failed to touch on the leading features of the period 1835 to 1850, but he has rarely done more than that. Here there is also a marked decline in the excellence of his style and in the substance and the skilful development of his chapters. The indications are so strong and numerous as to compel the inference that the author's studies of this period have not been extensive enough to enable him to trace and describe the full meaning of Calhoun in relation to the Confederacy and Reconstruction.

It would be unfair to emphasize this minor deficiency in a biography with many excellencies. What was most needed, Mr. Hunt has supplied—a description of Calhoun so clear and a judgment of him so sane that there is no room for disagreement as to the main features. And excepting a few such slips as the writing or printing of *Williston* instead of Willington (Waddell's famous school), and of Foote of *Alabama* instead of Mississippi, no positive errors have been noticed.

FREDERIC BANCROFT.

Stephen A. Douglas: a Study in American Politics. By ALLEN JOHNSON, Professor of History in Bowdoin College. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1908. Pp. x, 503.)

UNTIL recently the number of books about Stephen A. Douglas has been confined to the campaign lives of Sheahan, Flint and Warden, published in 1860, the *Treatise* issued by J. Madison Cutts in 1866, and two slight sketches of recent date. In the voluminous periodical literature of the last half-century, crowded with articles about Lincoln, there is practically nothing at all about Douglas. This neglect has been